

We claim:

1. A method of blocking a stain on a substrate to be painted, the method comprising the steps of:

5       contacting a stained portion of the substrate with a dry film layer;  
      applying pressure to the dry film layer to cause the dry film layer to  
adhere to the stained portion of the substrate and to at least a portion of the  
substrate adjacent the stain; and  
      subsequently coating the substrate and the dry film layer with one or  
10       more liquid coating layers.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer is  
provided on a release layer, and wherein the pressure applied to the dry  
film layer is provided through the release layer.

15       3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer is  
provided with an adhesive layer that assists in adhering the dry film layer to  
the stained portion of the substrate and to the portion of the substrate  
adjacent the stain.

20       4. The method according to claim 1, wherein substantially all of the  
substrate is coated with the one or more liquid coating layers.

25       5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is  
substantially vertical.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate  
comprises a painted wall.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a plastered wall.

5        8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises one or more of: a plastered wall, wallboard, particle board, wood, a wood-composite, concrete, or wallpaper.

10       9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a visible mark caused by one or more of: ink, crayon, lipstick, grease pencil, colored marker, smoke, water, or tannin.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain is hydrophilic.

15       11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain is lipophilic and would inhibit adhesion of an aqueous coating composition to the stained portion of the substrate.

20       12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a food residue.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain resides on the surface of the substrate.

25       14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain resides on the surface of a paint layer provided on the substrate.

30       15. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain resides within a paint layer provided on the substrate.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises one or more of: a dye, a conjugated organic compound, an aromatic color body, or a wood knot.

5           17. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain is soluble in water or an organic solvent.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a clear or unpigmented oily or lipophilic substance that is not readily visible.

10           19. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises one or more of: mineral oil, petrolatum, or wax.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer prevents migration of the stain to the subsequently applied one or more liquid coating layers.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer prevents the subsequently applied one or more liquid coating layers from dissolving the stain.

22. A stain-blocking composition suitable for use in the method according to claim 1, the composition comprising:  
the dry film layer;  
25           a release layer, on which the dry film layer is provided; and  
optionally, an adhesive layer, on a side of the dry film layer opposite the release layer, that assists in adhering the dry film layer to the stain.

23. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein  
30           the dry film layer comprises one or more of: an acrylic polymer, a urethane

polymer, an epoxy polymer, a hydrocarbon resin, a vinyl polymer, an ethylene copolymer, or a styrene copolymer.

5           24. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is formed on the release layer by coating a liquid paint onto the release layer and drying the liquid paint.

10           25. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises one or more of: a crosslinked polymer or an uncrosslinked polymer.

15           26. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises one or more of: a cationic polymer, an anionic polymer, or a neutral polymer.

            27. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises one or more layers, each of which may comprise a cationic polymer, an anionic polymer, or a neutral polymer.

20           28. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is dry to the touch and exudes no liquid substance.

            29. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a polymer.

25           30. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is formed from a liquid waterborne latex.

30           31. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a cured alkyd or polyester paint.

32. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a dried paint.

5           33. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a pressure-sensitive adhesive film.

34. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is substantially solvent-free.

10

35. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is substantially non-porous.

15           36. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a polymer having acid functionality.

20           37. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a polymer having one or more of: a cyclic urea functionality, an amine functionality, or a quaternary ammonium functionality.

25           38. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is formed from a waterborne coating containing a thickener.

39. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

30           40. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises at least one feathered edge.

41. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is provided with at least two feathered edges.

5           42. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the edges of the dry film layer are feathered.

43. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer has a width of at least 0.5 centimeters.

10           44. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer has a width of at least two centimeters.

45. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer has a width from about 0.5 centimeters to about one meter.

15           46. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer has a width from about 4 centimeters to about 70 centimeters.

20           47. The method according to claim 1, wherein the pressure is applied by a roller.

48. The method according to claim 2, wherein the pressure is applied by a spatula or other blade applicator.

25           49. The method according to claim 2, wherein the pressure is applied by hand.

50. The method according to claim 2, wherein the pressure is applied uniformly across the surface of the dry film layer.

30

51. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer comprises one or more of: an acrylic polymer; a hydrocarbon polymer; or a urethane polymer.

5

52. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a polymer having a  $T_g$  of from about  $-60^{\circ}\text{C}$  to about  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

53. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a tackifier resin.

10

54. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a styrene-isoprene polymer.

55. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an acrylic latex polymer.

15

56. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness of from about 1 micrometer to about 50 micrometers.

20

57. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer comprises one or more pigments.

58. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the release layer comprises one or more of: a silicone polymer, a fluoropolymer, a hydrocarbon polymer, paper, glassine paper, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, or nylon.

25

59. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer has a thickness from about 2.5 micrometers to about 500 micrometers.

5           60. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer has a thickness from about 10 micrometers to about 150 micrometers.

61. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a polymer having a Tg from about -50°C to about +80°C.  
10

62. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer comprises a polymer having a Tg from about -20°C to about +40°C.

63. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is prepared from a styrene-acrylic latex.  
15

64. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the adhesive layer is prepared from a waterborne latex.

20           65. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is prepared from an acrylic latex.

66. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is prepared from an acrylic latex and a thickener, and the adhesive layer is prepared from a waterborne latex.  
25

67. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is prepared from one or more of: an amine-cured epoxy resin; a waterborne urethane; a vinyl acetate-acrylic latex; a latex comprised of

residues of 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, methacrylic acid, and 2-phosphatoethyl methacrylate; an acrylic latex; or poly(vinylalcohol).

5        68. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer is prepared from an adhesive latex.

69. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a crack or a nail hole.

10       70. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer is provided with one or more feathered edges.

15       71. The stain-blocking composition according to claim 22, wherein the optional adhesive layer comprises a polymer having one or more of: a cyclic urea functionality, an amine functionality, and a quaternary ammonium functionality.

72. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the dry film layer has a width of at least one centimeter.